

## LESSON 11

# UNIQUE CHRIST

**Reading** : Heb. 7:1, 8:6.

**Memory verse** : Heb. 3:1.

**Theme** : *To submit totally in the presence of Jesus Christ after learning His uniqueness.*

**Introduction:** Which are the main religions of the world? Who are the founders of Islam, Buddhism, Jainism and Sikhism? The greatness of these religions depends on the teachings of their founders. But the greatness of Christianity is not the teachings of Jesus Christ but on the person of Jesus Christ. Holy Spirit reveals to us the uniqueness of Jesus Christ. Therefore we have to approach this subject very prayerfully.

### THE UNIQUENESS OF JESUS CHRIST IS SEEN IN VARIOUS ASPECTS:

#### 1. *Unique In fulfilment of prophecies:*

Birth, ministry, death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus Christ were foretold thousands of years before His life on earth. All the 39 books of the Old Testament bear testimony to Jesus. "He (seed of the woman) will bruise your (Satan's) head" (Gen. 3:15) is the first prophecy. The Old Testament ends with prophecies concerning Jesus Christ (Mal. 4:2-6). Such a personality cannot be found in the history of the world.

1. Place of birth: Micah 5:2, Matt. 2:1-6.
2. Virgin birth: Isa. 7:14, Matt. 1:22.
3. Ministry: Isa. 61:1-3, Luke 4:18, 19.
4. Betrayal: Zach. 11:12, Matt. 26:47-50.
5. Sufferings and death: Psa. 22, Isa. 53, Matt. 26:57-27-61.
6. Resurrection; Psa. 16:10, Acts 2:25-31.
7. Ascension: Psa. 25:7-10, Acts 1:9-11

## 2. UNIQUE IN BIRTH:

The second person of the Trinity was born in a wonderful manner through a virgin. No such birth has ever taken place (Isa. 7:4, Matt. 1:20-23, Luke 1:34-35, Gal. 4:4). That is why Jesus Christ is without sin and His death is taken as atonement for the sin of mankind.

## 3. UNIQUE IN LIFE:

Holiness, righteousness, humility, love and kindness of Jesus Christ were amazing even to His enemies (Luke 1:35, Acts 3:14, 4:27-30, Matt. 27:4, 19-25, Luke 21:41, 47, Mark 1:24, John 8:46). Everyone was attracted by the sweet words coming from His mouth (Luke 4:22). He travelled around doing good and casting out devils (Acts 10:38, Luke 4:40). He did everything right.

## 4. UNIQUE IN PERSONALITY:

- a) Son of David as a man (Matt. 1:1) Lord of David as God (Matt. 22:43-46).
- b) He became hungry as a man (Matt. 4:2), Mark 11:12), As God, He fed more than 5000 people with five loaves and declared Himself as the bread of life (John 6:11, 35, 36).
- c) As man, He was born of a woman, but as God He was there from the beginning (Luke 2:7, John 1:1),
- d) As man, He took baptism under John the Baptist (Matt. 3:15-16), but as God He gives baptism of the Holy Spirit (Matt. 3:11, Acts 1:5).
- e) He cried as a man at the grave of Lazarus (John 11:35), as God He raised Lazarus from the dead (John 11:43).
- f) As man, He is smaller than Father (John 10:29-30), but as God He is equal with Father (Phil. 2:6).
- g) As man, He was forsaken by God (Matt 27:46), but as God He is one with Father (John 10:36).

## 5. UNIQUE IN TEACHING:

No one has ever spoken like Jesus (John 7:6). His words were greater than those of prophets and authoritative. Prophets declared: "The Lord says so". But Jesus declares: "I say unto you" (Matt. 5:18,

20, 22, 28, 32, 44). His words gave comfort and courage in peoples hearts (Matt. 11:28). He made spiritual truths understandable using, parables, similes and allegories. His teachings are respected by all people.

## **6. UNIQUE IN DEATH:**

Death of Jesus Christ was not a natural death, nor was it a martyr's death. He did not die because of His sins. But His death is described in the Bible as substitutionary or propitiatory. He was tried seven times before the courts of four judges, namely, Annas, Caiaphas, Herod and Pilate. Finally Pilate sent Him to the cross after saying that he could not find any fault in Him (Luke 23:4, 14, 22, 23, 26). There has not been such an incident any time in the world. Moreover, He prayed for His oppressors: "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing":. His death was at the centre of God's plan to redeem mankind from their subjection to sin and death and make them eligible for God's glory along with Christ (1 John 2:2, 1 Pet. 2:24, Heb. 1:3, 9:26). His death is the exhibition of God's love (Rom. 5:8), God's righteousness (Rom. 1:17), God's power (Rom. 1:16) and God's wisdom (1 Cor. 1:23-24). The death of Jesus Christ was not an accident. It was foretold in the Scriptures (1 Cor. 15:3, Acts 8:32-35). The incidents which happened at the time of His death like darkness, splitting of the veil in the Temple, earth quake, splitting of rocks, resurrection of the dead, etc. also showed its special nature.

## **7. UNIQUE IN RESURRECTION:**

The open sepulchre of Jesus Christ is unique because the graves of all great men, prophets and religious leaders remain closed. The courage acquired by His disciples after His resurrection, their witnessing (Acts 2:32), the appearances of Jesus on various occasions (1 Cor. 15:3-8), the proclamation of the angels (Luke 24:4-7), growth of the church (Acts 5:14, 6:7), resurrection power that believers experience every day, etc. bear witness to the truth of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. It happened as fulfillment of prophecies and His own words (Psa. 16:10, 1 Cor. 15:4, John 2:19, Matt. 16:21, 17:9). His resurrection is the assurance of His deity, the completeness of redemption through His death, the resurrection of the dead and His return later on (1 Cor. 15:20-24).

## 8. UNIQUE IN HIS PRIESTHOOD:

The unique priesthood of Jesus Christ is described in the epistle to the Hebrews (Heb. 3:1, 4:14-16, 5:5-10, 6:20, 7:1, 3, 15:28, 8:1-6, 9:11-28, 10:9-14, 13:10-13). The work of a priest is to represent man and intercede for man in the presence of God. Priests of the Old Testament could not carry out their duties properly (Exo. 32:2-6, Jer. 23:1-2, 11, 26:7-11). God sent His Son into this world in the likeness of sinful man to accomplish what the Old Testament priesthood could not. He became as single sacrifice for the remission of sins (Heb. 7:27). There is no need for another sacrifice. Now He lives for ever as our High Priest interceding for us (Heb. 7:25, 9:12, 10:10, 12-18). The priesthood of Jesus Christ is not a continuation of Aaronic priesthood. It is of the order of Melchizedek who has no genealogy and who is priest for ever (Heb. 7:3, 17). Aaronic priests had to offer sacrifice for their own sins. On the other hand, Christ did not have to offer sacrifice for Himself as He is sinless (Heb. 7:27). "Such a high priest meets our need- one who is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens" (Heb. 7:26). Death has no hold on our High Priest. Aaronic priests were mortal and hence there was a succession of High Priests. Jesus Christ is the only eternal and unchanging High Priest (Heb. 7:23-25). He is capable of sympathizing with our weakness (Heb. 4:14). "because He himself suffered when He was tempted, He is able to help those who are being tempted" (Heb. 2:18). Let us praise God for our unique High Priest.

We have seen the uniqueness of Jesus Christ in many ways. Let us submit ourselves totally in His presence as He is our Saviour, Sustainer, Healer and High Priest.

### *Questions*

1. Quote the main prophecies and their fulfillment concerning Jesus Christ.
2. Explain how the birth of Jesus Christ is unique.
3. Prove that the life and personality of Jesus Christ are unique.
4. Explain the specialities of the teachings of Jesus Christ.
5. Why is the death of Jesus Christ unique?

6. How does the resurrection of Jesus reveal His uniqueness?
7. Explain the unique nature of the Priesthood of Jesus Christ by quoting verses from the epistle of Hebrews.
8. How much has the uniqueness of Jesus touched your life?

